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Weekend, May 12-14, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

KEVIN BACON SIZZLES

His new show 'I Love Dick' debuts on Amazon today. 18

Djimon Hounsou stays real. 16

All-Star Lowry is subject of Sixers' rumors. 28

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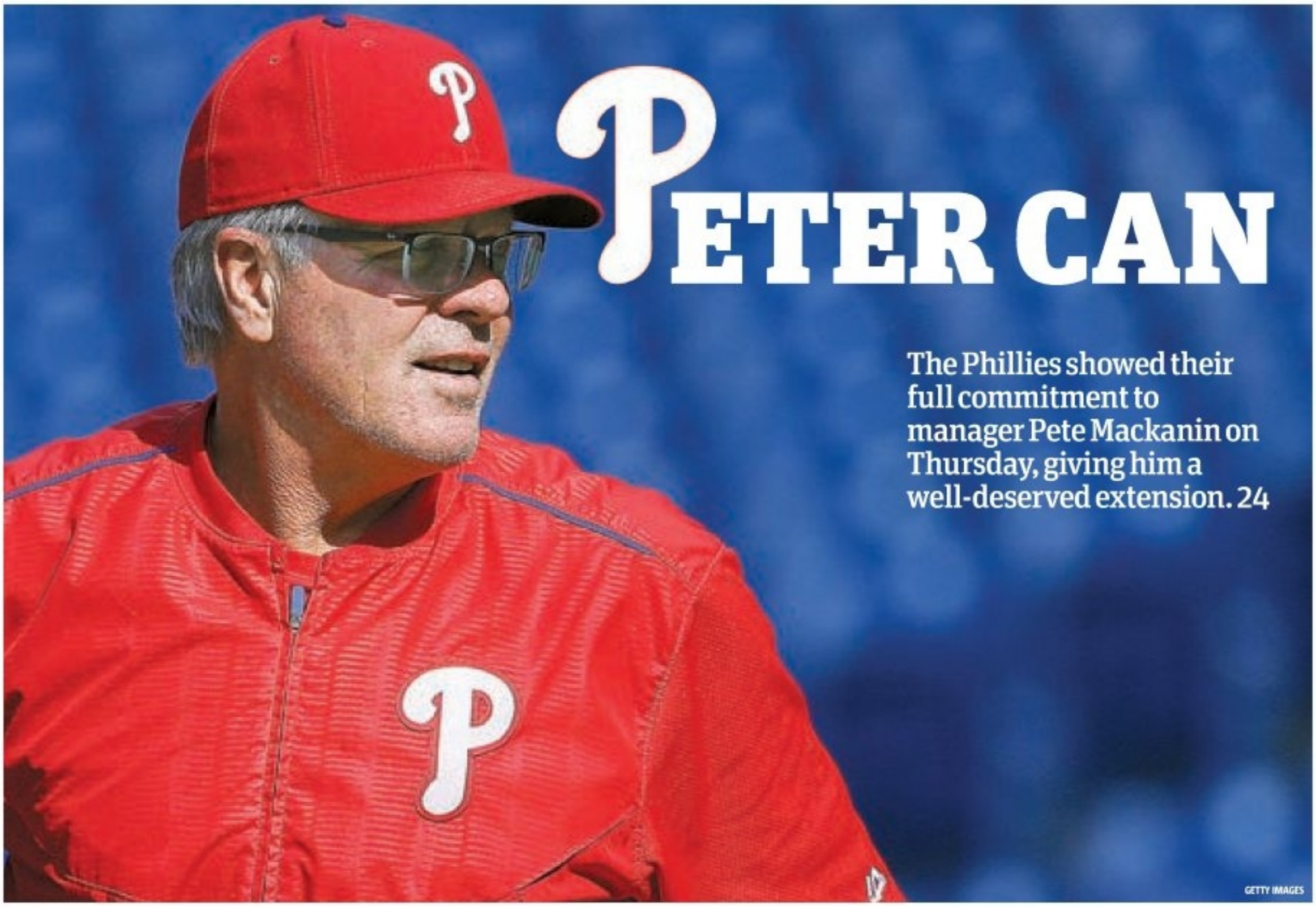

PETER CAN

The Phillies showed their full commitment to manager Pete Mackanin on Thursday, giving him a well-deserved extension. 24

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TRUMP CALLS COMEY A 'SHOWBOAT'

1 President Donald Trump on Thursday called ousted FBI chief James Comey a "showboat" and "grandstander," but its acting leader contradicted the president and promised the agency's probe into possible Trump campaign ties to Russia would proceed with vigor. Trump, facing Democratic accusations that he fired Comey on Tuesday to hinder the FBI investigation into alleged meddling by Russia in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, said he would have taken the action even without a recommendation to do so by the two top Justice Department officials. That ran counter to previous administration explanations of Comey's dismissal. REUTERS

DHS, AIRLINES MEET TO DISCUSS ELECTRONICS BAN

2 U.S. Homeland Security officials met with major U.S. airlines and a trade group to discuss the impact of possibly expanding a ban on large electronic gadgets on planes to flights from some European airports, three sources briefed on the meeting said. The afternoon meeting included high level executives from Delta Air Lines Inc, United Airlines Inc, American Airlines Group Inc and trade group Airlines for America, the sources said. They requested anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the confidential meeting. In March, the United States announced laptop restrictions on flights originating from 10 airports including in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey because of fears that a concealed bomb could be installed in electronic devices taken onto aircraft. REUTERS

AMERICAN AL QAEDA AVOIDS LONG SENTENCE

3 A New York City-born former al Qaeda member who plotted to attack a commuter railroad will be released in three months after spending 8½ years in custody because of the extensive intelligence he provided U.S. investigators after his arrest, prosecutors said. Bryant Neal Vinas, 34, pleaded guilty in 2009 after his capture by Pakistani authorities in 2008. At a hearing in Brooklyn on Thursday, U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis sentenced him to time served plus three months, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn. Vinas, a U.S. Army veteran, traveled to Pakistan in 2007 and eventually joined the militant group al Qaeda, which provided him weapons and explosives training, authorities said. In 2008, he participated in a rocket attack against a U.S. base across the Afghanistan border. REUTERS

ACTING FBI DIRECTOR TESTIFIES

4 Photographers focus on acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe as he prepares to testify with the other heads of the United States intelligence agencies before the Senate Intelligence Committee in the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill on Thursday in Washington, D.C. McCabe was testifying in place of former FBI Director James Comey, who was fired by President Donald Trump. GETTY IMAGES

MORMON CHURCH CUTS TIES WITH BOY SCOUT

5 The Mormon church said on Thursday it is no longer participating in two Boy Scouts of America programs for older teenagers, a change that will affect more than 185,000 boys in the United States and Canada. Beginning January 2018, the Utah-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is cutting ties with the Boy Scouts' Varsity and Venturing programs, youth development activities aimed at preparing young men ages 14 to 18 for adulthood. This announcement came months after the Boy Scouts began accepting transgender boys into the program. But the church said this did not influence its decision to pull out of the programs. "Instead, young men activities will focus on spiritual, social, physical and intellectual goals outlined by the Church," the church said in a statement. REUTERS

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MICHAEL MARTIN

Gloria Steinem was asked about whether people consider Ivanka Trump a feminist, and she did not hold back. But the real shocker was when she compared Ivanka's maternity leave policy to that of Nazi Germany. Read more at **metro.us/news.**

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City Controller Alan Butkovitz touted his record in office ahead of next Tuesday's primary. PROVIDED

Butkovitz touts career, slams rival ahead of city controller primary

City Controller Alan Butkovitz says he's got a record of successes.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

In the race to be city controller, incumbent Alan Butkovitz is pulling no punches.

The 65-year-old three-term controller — seeking his fourth term in next week's primary — will face off against Rebecca Rhynhart, 42, who has previously served as Philadelphia city treasurer, budget director under Mayors Michael Nutter and Jim Kenney, and as Kenney's chief administrative officer.

In a recent interview, Rhynhart claimed Butkovitz is part of the "political machine in Philadelphia" and argued that he wouldn't stand up to that machine when necessary.

However, in an interview Thursday, Butkovitz said that couldn't be further from the truth.

"What she is pretending to be, we already are," argued Butkovitz.

And what's more, he said, if Rhynhart is elected and wants to investigate corruption as she has claimed, she would have to start by recusing herself from investigations into anything that may have happened when Nutter was in office because she was formerly city treasurer and budget director.

"What's the point of electing her if she would have to recuse herself from all those investigations?" asked the city controller. "It tells me, what she wants is just to have an elected office."

Since 1991, Butkovitz has held the office of city controller. It has been a tenure that, he said, has left him with "scars." Most notably, Butkovitz recalled his work that helped bring fraud charges to former Philadelphia Sheriff John Green.

"I took on the establishment and got scars going after Green," recalled Butkovitz.

He also ruffled feathers with former Philadelphia schools chief Paul Vallas when he looked into no-bid contracts that Vallas had for promised school buildings. It was an investigation that even brought threats from disgraced Senator Vince Fumo.

"We couldn't find any schools that were being built," said Butkovitz. "During that process, I got a call from Fumo saying, 'Cut it out,' but I couldn't do that."

More recently, Butkovitz audited the Mayor's Fund for Philadelphia, a nonprofit that received funding from the Philadelphia Marathon and was intended to fund scholarships and city programs. Last year, he found that the fund's former chairperson, Desiree Peterkin-Bell, used the nonprofit for expenses like travel and a new pair of shoes.

Also, when asked about Rhynhart's claim that the Philadelphia Parking Authority hasn't been audited since 2009, Butkovitz scoffed. He said that the PPA, which is monitored by the state, actually submits a yearly audit and anything further should be done by the state.

Asked what he hopes to achieve if re-elected, Butkovitz said one of the issues he's studying is workplace automation, adding that he wants to make sure the city controller's office keeps up.

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Mayor Kenney has recently argued that the sale of marijuana in Pennsylvania could raise funds for the state's schools. GETTY IMAGES

Kenney: Sell weed in state liquor stores

Philly mayor says it would weaken "underground" market and provide a tax base for education.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Is it red wine that pairs best with a bong, or white?

Either way, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said in an interview Wednesday that he believes locals should be able to find out for themselves by being allowed to purchase recreational marijuana at state-run liquor stores.

Talking with WHYY radio host Marty Moss-Coane's "Radio Times," the mayor argued for the sale of recreational marijuana at state stores as a way to not only allow the state to access and control funds that are now spent on the "underground" market for marijuana, but also as a way to raise needed funding for Pennsylvania's education system. The proposal might even ensure teenagers have a more difficult time obtaining the drug, he said.

"In the end though, it makes no sense for me that we are a state that licenses, promotes, sells and taxes alcohol in a closed state-store system and somehow we continue making cannabis a criminal activity," Kenney said on the radio show. "To me, we have the perfect system to set up the legal, recreational use of cannabis. There's a controlled state system, allowing the state to capture all that income that is now going to the underground, to pay for schools."

Marijuana-legalization advocates estimate Pennsylvania could see $1 billion a year in revenue if it was legalized.

Kenney argued that selling pot in liquor stores would allow the state to gain additional funding without needing to raise income taxes — or raise any taxes, for that matter — while providing needed funding for Pennsylvania's educational system.

"This is a new source of revenue that people are doing now," he said. "We can bring it aboveboard and sell it in state stores."

Not only would the state then gain taxes on a source of revenue that is sold on the black market and untaxed, Kenney said that by selling the drug at liquor stores — with already strict regulations against providing alcohol to anyone underaged — the state can ensure that only adults can obtain the drug.

"I think that's the safest way to do it. I think that adults will be able to buy it and we will be able to eliminate the underground criminal element of this," he said.

Kenney isn't the first local politician to float this idea. In the past year, Jordan Harris, state representative for West Philly's 168th district, proposed a bill that would allow the sale of cannabis in the state's liquor stores, as did state Sen. Daylin Leach — who proposed a similar bill in 2013, and reintroduced it again in 2015.

Wendell Young IV, president of UFCW Local 1776, which represents about 3,500 state store workers, previously told Metro his members would be happy to sell marijuana if it were legal.

"We have a highly trained staff to handle what is the most abused drug in the nation, alcohol. They'll do just as excellent a job handling marijuana," Young said. "Everything's already in place. You're just selling a different product."

However, both bills are stalled in Harrisburg.

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Judge orders criminal charges against Amtrak 188 engineer

Amtrak 188 derailed while traveling at 106 mph on a curve at Frankford Junction. Eight passengers died and some 200 were injured. GETTY IMAGES

Brandon Bostian may face charges of involuntary manslaughter and reckless endangerment.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

On Thursday, a municipal court judge ordered the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to reverse its earlier decision to not bring criminal charges in the derailment of Amtrak train 188, which resulted in the deaths of eight people and injured 200 more.

In a hearing with families of those involved in that crash, Judge Marsha Neifield ordered that Brandon Bostian, who drove the train at speeds of up to 106 mph — nearly twice the posted limit — in the lead up to the fatal crash on May 12, 2015, be charged with involuntary manslaughter and reckless endangerment.

Earlier this week, the DA's office announced that it wouldn't press charges against Bostian —or anyone involved in the fatal crash — after finding "no evidence that the engineer acted with criminal 'intent' or criminal 'knowledge,'" in the incident.

On Thursday, a spokesman for the DA's office shared a statement, saying that the office would turn any prosecution in this case over to the state's attorney general.

"President Judge Neifield has ordered the filing of two private criminal complaints as a result of the Amtrak train 188 derailment. In view of our earlier decision not to file charges, we have referred this prosecution to the Pennsylvania attorney general," it read. "We take this action to avoid the potential for any apparent conflict of interest, consistent with the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Attorney's Act."

The Attorney General's Office released a statement saying they had received the referral and were "carefully reviewing this important matter."

Though the National Transportation Safety Board had previously ruled that the derailment was caused by Bostian, of New York, when he lost "situational awareness" due to being distracted by the radio, the DA's office found on Tuesday that there was not enough "evidence sufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the engineer 'consciously' disregarded the risk" of an imminent crash.

On Thursday afternoon, attorneys Richard A. Sprague, Thomas R. Kline and Robert J. Mongeluzzi, who represent many victims of this incident, held a news conference at their Center City office, where they applauded Judge Neifield's decision.

"We take this action to avoid the potential for any apparent conflict of interest, consistent with the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Attorney's Act."

A statement from the DA's office

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Trump attacks on fired FBI chief meet resistance; Russia probe proceeds

In Trump's first interview since firing Comey on Tuesday, he appeared to try to underscore that Comey's dismissal was about his performance at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and not about the Russia probe.

Trump faces accusations from Democrats that he fired Comey to hinder the FBI investigation into U.S. intelligence agency allegations that Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election to benefit Trump. The probe has hung over Trump's presidency since he took office in January and threatens to overwhelm his policy priorities.

"He's a showboat. He's a grandstander," Trump told NBC News. "The FBI has been in turmoil. You know that, I know that, everybody knows that."

Trump's characterization was odds with that of the top Republican and Democratic lawmakers on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

At a hearing on Thursday, the Republican chairman of the panel, Richard Burr, and the top Democrat, Mark Warner, praised Comey. Warner said he was offended at Trump's remarks.

Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe, testifying in place of Comey, contradicted Trump's appraisal of turmoil at the FBI, saying Comey had "broad support" from the rank and file "and still does to this day," McCabe said.

Officials familiar with internal FBI politics said Trump's action has hurt morale and would make it hard to attract and retain staff.

Moscow has denied interference in the election and the Trump administration denies allegations of collusion with Russia. GETTY IMAGES

Trump had been expected to soon visit FBI headquarters, but MSNBC reported that plan had been thrown out after agency officials told the White House that Trump would not be greeted warmly following his firing of Comey.

> *"The FBI has been in turmoil. You know that, I know that, everybody knows that."*
>
> Trump

Former Republican Rep. Mike Rogers is being considered as a candidate to replace Comey, a senior White House official said. The nominee must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

McCabe promised to tell senators of any White House meddling into the agency's probe on Russia. Democrats have called for a special counsel to look into the matter.

"It is my opinion and belief that the FBI will continue to pursue this investigation vigorously and completely," McCabe told the senators.

Trump said in the NBC television interview that he never pressured Comey into dropping the FBI probe, adding: "If Russia did anything, I want to know that." Trump said there was no "collusion between me and my campaign and the Russians," but that "the Russians did not affect the vote."

His explanation of why he fired Comey ran counter to previous administration explanations of Comey's dismissal. REUTERS

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South Korea urges 'parallel' talks, sanctions to rein in North

Moon Jae-in was sworn in on Wednesday and said in his first speech as president he would immediately address security tensions that have raised fears of war on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea's new president launched international efforts to defuse tension over North Korea's weapons development on Thursday, urging both dialogue and sanctions while also aiming to ease China's anger about a U.S. anti-missile system.

Moon Jae-in, a liberal former human rights lawyer, was sworn in on Wednesday and said in his first speech as president he would immediately address security tensions that have raised fears of war on the Korean Peninsula.

Moon first spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping and later to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The conversations were dominated by how to respond to North Korea's rapidly developing nuclear and ballistic missile programs, which are in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

"The resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue must be comprehensive and sequential, with pressure and sanctions used in parallel with negotiations," Moon's spokesman, Yoon Young-chan, quoted Moon as telling Xi.

"Sanctions against North Korea are also a means to bring the North to the negotiating table aimed at eliminating its nuclear weapons," Yoon told a briefing, adding that Xi indicated his agreement.

Moon Jae-in, South Korea's president, speaks during the presidential inauguration at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea. GETTY IMAGES

Moon has taken a more conciliatory line with North Korea than his conservative predecessors and advocates engagement. He has said he would be prepared to go to Pyongyang "if the conditions are right."

Moon's advocacy of engagement with North Korea contrasts with the approach of the United States, South Korea's main ally, which is seeking to step up pressure on Pyongyang through further isolation and sanctions.

President Donald Trump, who spoke with Moon on Wednesday, this month opened the door to meeting North Korea's Kim Jong Un, saying he would be honored to meet Kim under the right circumstances.

U.S. officials have said they see no value in resuming international talks with North Korea under current circumstances and that Pyongyang must make clear it is committed to denuclearization. REUTERS

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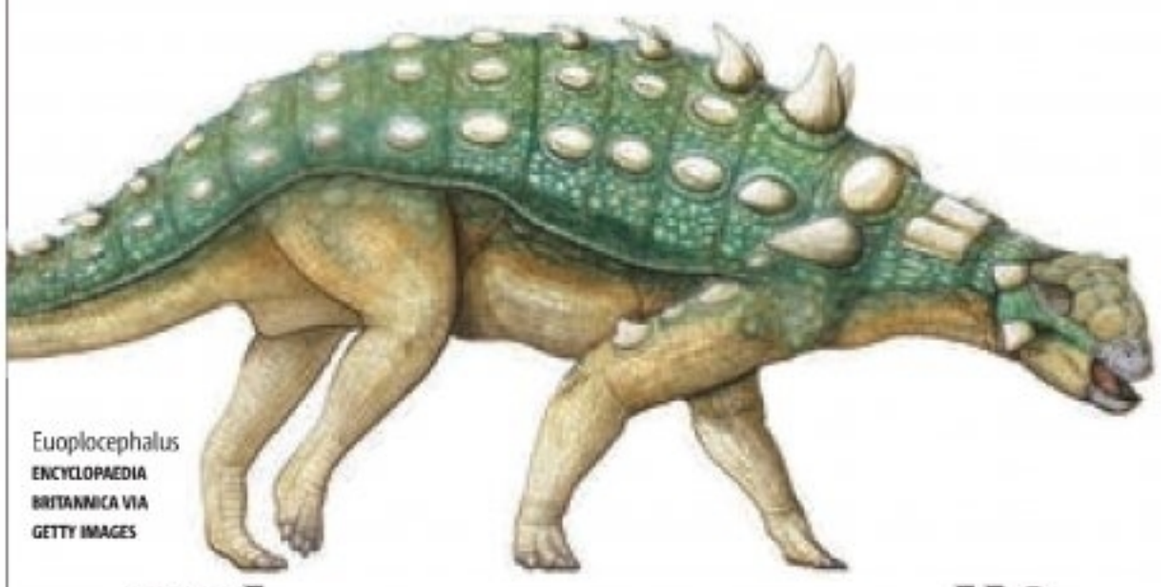

Euoplocephalus
ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA VIA GETTY IMAGES

Who you gonna call? Dinosaur named for 'Ghostbusters' beast Zuul

The dinosaur's name was inspired by its skull similarities to the head of the "Ghostbusters" monster, according to Royal Ontario Museum paleontologist David Evans.

REUTERS

It was more of a leg buster, but scientists have named a spiky, tanklike dinosaur that wielded a sledge-hammer tail after the fanciful beast Zuul from the blockbuster film "Ghostbusters" that menaced Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and friends.

The scientists on Tuesday described fossils unearthed in the northern Montana badlands of the four-legged, plant-eating dinosaur called Zuul crurivastator that was about 20 feet long, weighed 2-1/2 tons and lived 75 million years ago.

Zuul belonged to a group of Cretaceous Period dinosaurs called ankylosaurs that were among the most heavily armored land animals ever. They were clad in bony armor from the snout to the end of the tail, often with spikes and a tail club that could be used to smash the legs of predators like the Tyrannosaurus rex cousin Gorgosaurus that lived alongside Zuul.

Zuul is one of the most complete and best-preserved ankylosaurs ever found, including rare soft tissue, paleontologist Victoria Arbour of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto said. Its fossils included skin impressions and keratinous sheaths on the tail spikes.

In the 1984 movie, Zuul (pronounced ZOOL) was described as an ancient Near East demigod and appeared as a big, horned, vaguely doglike monster with glowing red eyes, possessing Sigourney Weaver's body.

> *"The skull of the new dinosaur has a short, rounded snout, gnarly forehead and two sets of horns projecting backward from behind the eyes, just like Zuul."*
> Evans

"The skull of the new dinosaur has a short, rounded snout, gnarly forehead and two sets of horns projecting backwards from behind the eyes, just like Zuul," Evans said.

Aykroyd, the Ontario-born "Ghostbusters" star and co-writer, appeared in a video released by the museum alongside the dinosaur's skull, holding a photo of the movie beast.

"We're so honored that the Royal Ontario Museum would accord the name of this magnificent creature with the appellation that we called our 'terror dog' in the movie, and that is Zuul, Z-U-U-L," Aykroyd said.

Early humans co-existed in Africa with humanlike species 300,000 years ago

The dinosaur's tail, about 10 feet long, was an intimidating defensive weapon.

"The menacing, spiked tail of Zuul is by far the coolest part of the animal," Evans said. "It has a wicked series of large spikes at the base of the tail, then a series of elongated, peaked spines that run the length of the tail club, and it ends in a massive, expanded club."

The research was published in the journal Royal Society Open Science.

From left: Bill Murray, Harold Ramis and Dan Aykroyd on the set of "Ghostbusters." GETTY IMAGES

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Uber adds trucking brokerage firm amid long-haul push

Uber was granted a DOT broker license for its Uber Freight business at the end of September. GETTY IMAGES

Uber Technologies Inc. hired the team behind a Chicago transportation brokerage last fall as part of an effort to break into the long-haul trucking industry.

All five employees from 4Front Logistics joined Uber in November, said an Uber spokeswoman, who added that Uber did not pay anything for the company. Brokerages such as 4Front Logistics connect manufacturers and retailers that are shipping goods with truck owners and fleets.

The deal comes as Uber is vying to apply the logistics expertise it has gained ferrying passengers in countries around the world to the trucking industry. That strategy puts it in the middle of a large, highly fragmented industry of freight brokers who match cargo with truck operators.

Uber Chief Executive Travis Kalanick posted a photo on Twitter on Sunday of a large white truck emblazoned with the words "Uber Freight."

In one of Uber's first public displays of its interest in trucking, Uber last August acquired self-driving truck startup Otto for $680 million, a deal that is now at the center of a legal battle with Alphabet's Waymo.

Since launching its push into trucking about a year ago, Uber has been steadily gaining traction, said transportation analyst Jack Atkins of investment bank Stephens Inc.

"They are being very active building up their scale in the brokerage market, both in terms of going after customers but also making sure they have the capacity to fulfill that," he said.

Uber, along with Otto, has over the past several months acquired a fleet of its own trucks to test its technology, pitched its services to independent truck owners and trucking associations, and built out a host of other technologies involving mapping and tracking, which are part of the logistics package for trucking.

As Silicon Valley aims to ease logistics in entrenched industries, a host of startups have rushed into trucking, a $700 billion-a-year industry that is notorious for low margins.

Despite its small size, 4Front will help Uber build capacity, said Ivan Tsybaev, chief executive of Trucker Path, a startup that has built a popular navigation app for truckers.

"It's really hard to scale fast, even with Uber's resources," he said.

4Front Logistics was granted a broker license for moving freight across state lines in March 2016 by the U.S. Department of Transportation, according to the DOT database. That license was revoked last month. The reason is unclear, but a DOT spokesman said most often revocation is the result of companies not providing proof of insurance.

Uber was granted a DOT broker license for its Uber Freight business at the end of September.

Otto has been registered with the DOT and with the California Department of Motor Vehicles to haul freight as a carrier — not a broker — since last year.

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Djimon Hounsou plays Bedivere, one of the heroes of Guy Ritchie's "King Arthur." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Djimon Hounsou stays real

wknd

Even in a blockbuster like "King Arthur," the Oscar nominee finds something meaningful.

MATT PRIGGE
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Djimon Hounsou just had a birthday. When we spoke to the acclaimed actor a couple weeks ago for his new blockbuster "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword," he had recently turned 53. He takes getting older in stride.

"As we age in our later years, the celebrations become slightly diluted. You don't want everyone to remind you how old you're getting," Hounsou tells us. It's even worse these days. "Now we have social media, and people post about it whether you want it or not. 'It's your birthday! You're going to celebrate!' Why are you happy I'm so old?"

Complicating it is his past. Born in the African republic of Benin, he lived in poverty, even after he emigrated in his teens to Lyon, France.

"I was born in a place where wishing someone a happy birthday is unthinkable. When you come from a third world country, the need to feed one's self on a daily basis is a constant challenge. It doesn't leave room to fantasize about tomorrow or other things," he says.

Hounsou's life got markedly better. A chance encounter with a photographer led to him becoming a model, then an actor. Once Steven Spielberg cast him as Cinque, leader of the mutiny on an America-bound slave ship in 1997's "Amistad," his career turned into what it is now: a mixture of serious fare ("In America" and "Blood Diamond," both of which netted him Oscar nominations) and blockbusters, like "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Furious 7."

GETTY IMAGES

"King Arthur" is his latest huge spectacle. He plays Bedivere, the wise and loyal confidant of our film's strapping hero (Charlie Hunnam). Still, even when Hounsou does $150 million movies, he has to have some strong connection to it. For him, the tale — in which Arthur has to battle a despotic king (Jude Law) who rules through fear — reminded him of the history of his home continent.

"It's one of those stories I came across when I was growing up. I thought, 'Wow, this story is similar to some of our kings,'" Hounsou says. "When you look at the continent of Africa, unfortunately you have a lot of those kinds of rulers, who want to be king for eternity. You have good ones, but those are the ones you see more of, because they go to enormous lengths to prove and to affirm their existence, to affirm their place on the throne. And those can easily turn into dictatorships."

Making it new

Another aspect of this "King Arthur" that appealed to Hounsou was how diverse it was. There's a mage played by a woman (Astrid Berges-Frisbey) and the Knights of the Round Table are a multicultural lot, including men of color and of different countries.

"It's important to reflect our times, to this contemporary period in our existence, to have a social impact," he says. "Here, for the first time we had an amazing, diverse cast. That speaks to the way the Western world likes to view itself sometimes."

Hounsou doesn't think leaders should pursue such positions only for the sake of power. He compares it to people who come to Hollywood only to be famous.

"The vocation should be about the passion you have for the job, the passion you have for executing it. Because once it's done, it's done, you move onto the next thing.

"If you come to Hollywood to be famous right off the bat, you're starting off on the wrong foot," he says. "If you're going to Hollywood because you've been a great performer, a great actor, a great actress, a talented human being, then it's a proper vocation."

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Amy Schumer coaxed Goldie Hawn back to the screen for the first time in 15 years with "Snatched." TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

"Snatched"

Director: Jonathan Levine
Stars: Amy Schumer, Goldie Hawn
Rating: R

●●●○○

As the first Goldie Hawn movie in 15 years, "Snatched" is no the Elvis "Comeback Special." It's not a legend storming back into public view. It's more like a soft relaunch — an AWOL star baby-stepping her way onto screens again. Granted, it's also a big summer comedy, a raunch-fest featuring a scene where Amy Schumer accidentally cleans out her vag in full view of the man she wants to bag. But Hawn herself rarely goes full Goldie. In her halcyon days, she was the mugging, screaming, magnetic center of attention. Here, she's more like the straight man, the one who gifts her movie to her wilder, younger co-star.

Still, Goldie's as delightful as ever. She's always been more versatile than credited (she has an Oscar, for one thing), and she's a good foil to Schumer. The newly minted star plays Hawn's daughter Emily, who's somehow more hopeless than her "Trainwreck" hero. A Facebook-addicted slacker, Emily won't let her lack of a job and considerable debts stop her from going on a selfie-heavy jaunt to an Ecuador resort. She brings mom (because her boyfriend just dumped her), and the two bond when Emily's drunken, moronic antics get them kidnapped by a murderous drug cartel.

What follows is way more in the Schumer vein than the Goldie. The icon is basically along for the ride, hobnobbing with the new style of comedy, which is very different than hers. She's game, though, and the movie is at least funny — often darkly funny, with Emily accidentally committing murder. "Snatched" even attempts to send up Ugly Americanism abroad; it fails miserably, but at least it tried. Destined for lazy Sunday hangover cable TV bingeing alongside the underrated likes of "Hot Pursuit," this is a seriously weird comeback movie, and one that didn't necessarily need to feature Goldie Hawn herself. But we'll take what we can get. MATT PRIGGE

Guy Ritchie turned Sherlock Holmes into a shirtless bare-knuckle boxer, and he does the same to King Arthur (Charlie Hunnam, left). WARNER BROS. PICTURES

"King Arthur: Legend of the Sword"

Director: Guy Ritchie
Stars: Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law
Rating: PG-13

●●○○○

You might not expect a King Arthur movie to have a character named "Goosefat." Or salty future Knights of the Round Table who drop "Bollocks!" and "Oy!" From the bland title to the self-important posters, you might not predict "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" would have kinetic foot chases shot with GoPro cameras inches from the actors' faces, or the token "Here's the plan" scene done as a lightning fast flurry of quick cuts and sight gags and one-liners. All this may be less surprising, however, if you knew it was directed by Guy Ritchie. Even then, you might not imagine Guy Ritchie's "King Arthur" could be so very Guy Ritchie.

If only it were "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Mages" all the way through. "Legend of the Sword" is indeed another bloated origin story, with Charlie Hunnam as Arthur before he's king. The story gets to him raising Excalibur from the stone, then fighting a tyrant (Jude Law) with magical powers. Sorry if you wanted to see Merlin or Guinevere or Lancelot or Morgan, let alone the Holy Grail. You'll have to wait for those in the sequels they may never make.

On the other hand, Ritchie directs the hell out of it — when he can. As in his undersung "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.," he finds creative, eccentric ways to tackle generic set pieces. Most improbably of all, it retains Ritchie's laddish sense of humor. But Ritchie can only do so much. You can imagine him telling studio execs he'll direct a climactic magic sword battle that looks like a "Soulcalibur" duel only if he can call one character "Mischief John."

Despite considerable effort, it only makes us remember that somehow the Arthurian legend hasn't yielded many decent films, apart from John Boorman's "Excalibur," Robert Bresson's "Lancelot du Lac" and "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." Unlike the fun-suck revisionist "King Arthur" from 13 years ago, though, this one gets a C+ for effort. MP

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In 'I Love Dick,' Kevin Bacon gives a warm welcome to the female gaze

His character is pretty swoonworthy.

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They say you should never judge a book by its cover (or a TV show by its title for that matter), but it's kind of hard not to be curious about what "I Love Dick" is all about. Thankfully, the new Amazon series, based on Chris Kraus' 1997 book of the same name, makes its debut today.

Kevin Bacon stars as Dick, a rough-around-the-edges artist and local celebrity in the close-knit arts community of Marfa, Texas. Chris (Kathryn Hahn), a struggling New York filmmaker, accompanies her husband, Sylvere (Griffin Dunne), to Dick's artist residency and immediately becomes obsessed with the sculpture-making cowboy. As her muse, Dick awakens an artistic fire in Chris that is sexy, electric and, at times, a little awkward.

But Bacon insists that Dick is way more than an object of desire for Chris.

There's more to Dick than meets the eye.

Kevin Bacon plays an artist-meets-cowboy in "I Love Dick" ALL PHOTOS AMAZON

"One could make the assumption that the male characters are going to be looked at from a feminist view because it was an all-female writers group [on the project]," he says. "What the writers have created is a well-drawn, complex male character who, by the end of the show, moves beyond being the object to being a vulnerable, confused and complicated man."

The 58-year-old actor also notes that some men might be "frightened" by being the subject of the female gaze.

"Sometimes men think that the foundation of feminism is anger, and that's a mistake," he reveals. "When you look at this show, I think that what you see is a lot of love. Women are often more in touch with love than men are."

Well, if you're looking for love, you've come to the right place — just not in the way you think. Chris begins giving life to her infatuation with Dick through a series of erotic letters she writes to him, which she, of course, reads out loud to her husband, restoring a long lost fire to their own marriage. The out-of-the-box menage a trois may seem a little complicated at first, but once you get to know these irresistible characters, you too will love Dick.

"I Love Dick" premieres today on Amazon.

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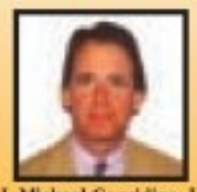

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6 Gifts for mom on Mother's Day

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MADELINE PRESLAND
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Mother's Day is just a few days away. If you haven't thought of a gift yet, it isn't too late to shop local boutiques and find something she'll adore. From sweet-smelling sentiments to accessories that will make her feel cool in the summer heat, here are our six top picks for perfect Mother's Day gifts.

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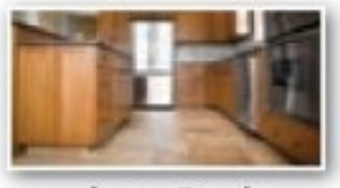

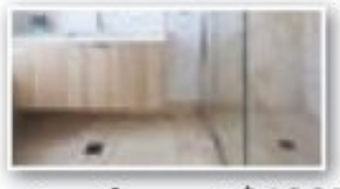

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Phillies make commitment to Mackanin, who has quietly started team's turnaround

The Phillies have extended manager Pete Mackanin's contract through 2018, and possibly beyond if he shows he can win.

KYLE PHILLIPPI
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Pete Mackanin has rings, including his wedding band and maybe an old high school ring, but it's his 2009 National League championship ring he got in his first year with the Phillies as an assistant that he brought up on Thursday.

It's something he'd like to get another of, and he hopes it's with the Phillies. There's a good chance now that he'll be the head man for this organization when the rebuild enters its final stage.

The Phillies signed their manager to a new deal that'll keep him around for the 2018 season and most likely in 2019 with a club option. If all goes well, it's likely he sticks around.

"I can certainly envision it," Mackanin, 65, said. "I'd like to be here. I've got that NL Championship ring from 2009 and I'd like to get another one. The way to get there is to win games on a daily basis."

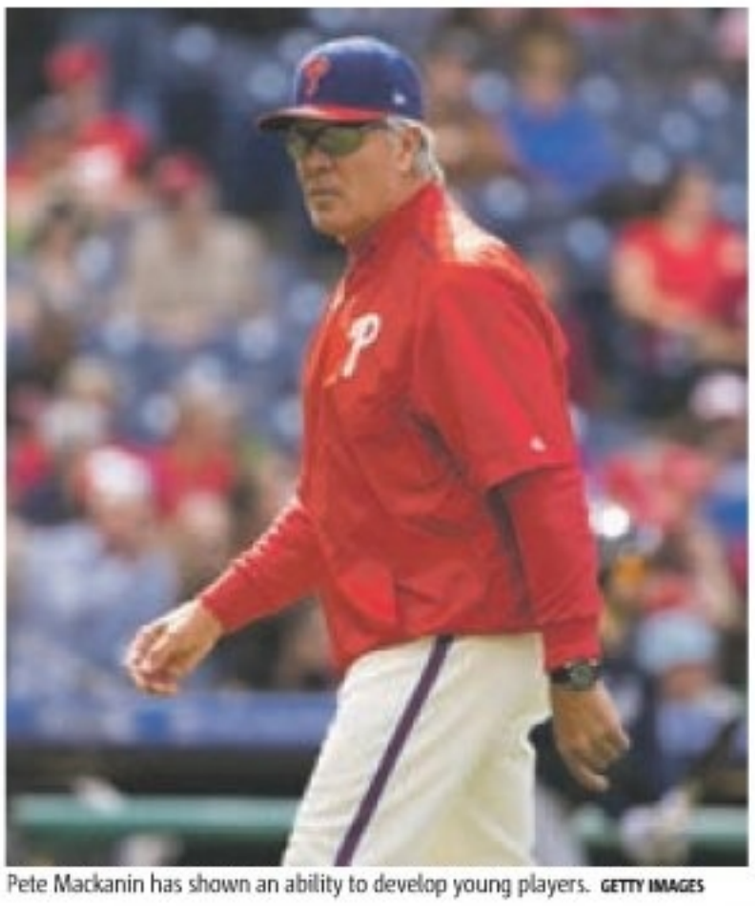
The show of faith by the Phillies' brass — at a time in which the team has won just two of its last 12 games — suggests that they view Mackanin as someone who can lead this team through the rebuild and quite possibly during the contending years.

"From my perspective, I am very pleased with the contributions Pete has made as the manager of this club," said Phillies general manager Matt Klentak. "I think he's grown a lot in the role and really whether it's his interactions with the players or the media or with the fans … I think he has clearly solidified that he's the leader of this club."

Since taking over, Mackanin has gone 121-160 as the club's manager while doing all he can with the little he has had to work with over the past few seasons. There are multiple examples, though, of his success showing through the lopsided win-loss record.

Klentak specifically mentioned Mackanin's role in building Cesar Hernandez from someone who had "a rocky start" to now establishing himself as one of the best second basemen in baseball. There's also Aaron Altherr, who Mackanin has adamantly motivated and done all he can to get him into the lineup. Tommy Joseph, too, has responded nicely thanks to the patience of Mackanin after his poor start in April.

Those players are all playing valuable roles on this club, and Klentak fully expects Mackanin's work with Maikel Franco to begin to show, as well. Seeing all of that is one of the main reasons Klentak decided now was the time to re-up the manager.



Pete Mackanin has shown an ability to develop young players. GETTY IMAGES

"Pete's ability and our staff's ability to continue to work with those players and to help them grow, to help them improve and to understand that there are going to be growing pains with younger players," Klentak said. "That's a big part of it."

Mackanin can now sleep easier at night knowing he has the support, but he's not looking at the future. He says as a manager, all you can do is focus on the day at hand; for winning games is what this organization is after, and he knows in order to fully see this process reach its potential, winning will be what gets the wheels churning.

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Hometown All-Star Lowry is subject of Sixers' rumors

Will Philly emerge as Kyle Lowry's destination of choice when free agency arrives?

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Kyle Lowry would be a perfect fit in Philly. GETTY IMAGES

There couldn't be a better fit for Raptors guard Kyle Lowry than the Sixers.

And according to a number of sources contemplating the future of the highly coveted 31-year-old scorer, the match could be made this offseason when Lowry opts out of his contract with Toronto and becomes a free agent.

After scoring career highs in nearly every category this past season — prior to being swept by the Cavaliers in the NBA playoffs — Lowry averaged 22.4 points, 7.0 assists and 4.8 rebounds per game while shooting over 40 percent from beyond the arc. He went to Villanova and grew up in Philly. He has a relationship with former Raptors front office executive and current Sixers VP of basketball operations Bryan Colangelo. And he is looking for a change of scenery. What could be more different than the youth and potential of the upstarting Sixers?

Lowry himself has time to decide before the offseason begins this summer, but he did say he wanted to win a championship when he picks a new team. And though the prospect of playing alongside Joel Embiid, Dario Saric, Ben Simmons and whomever the Sixers take when they pick in the lottery this June, Philly won't be an immediate title contender with Lowry's addition.

The veteran would add many attributes missing from the Sixers, pieces they'll need to eventually address like experience, shooting ability and a prized free agent to open the floodgates for Philadelphia as a destination for good basketball players.

Philly has no shortage of cap space and the shooting guard position would belong to Lowry, as the rest of the lineup on a healthy squad would line up alongside him. Should the squad continue to improve, it will eventually have quite an appealing case to make for potential free agents and the three-time NBA All-Star could get a head start.

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Bernardo Ramirez • Kamaria Coryaba • Listwell Donaldson
Jennifer Gordon • Richard Wright • Aimee Layport

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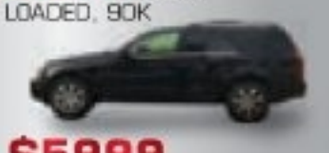
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Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, December term, 2016, No. 991 Notice is hereby given that on 28 April 2017, the petition of Amy Cravetz was filed, praying for a decree to change name to Elliot Starr. The Court has fixed court date, 15 May 2017 at 9:30 A.M., in Room No. 691, for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

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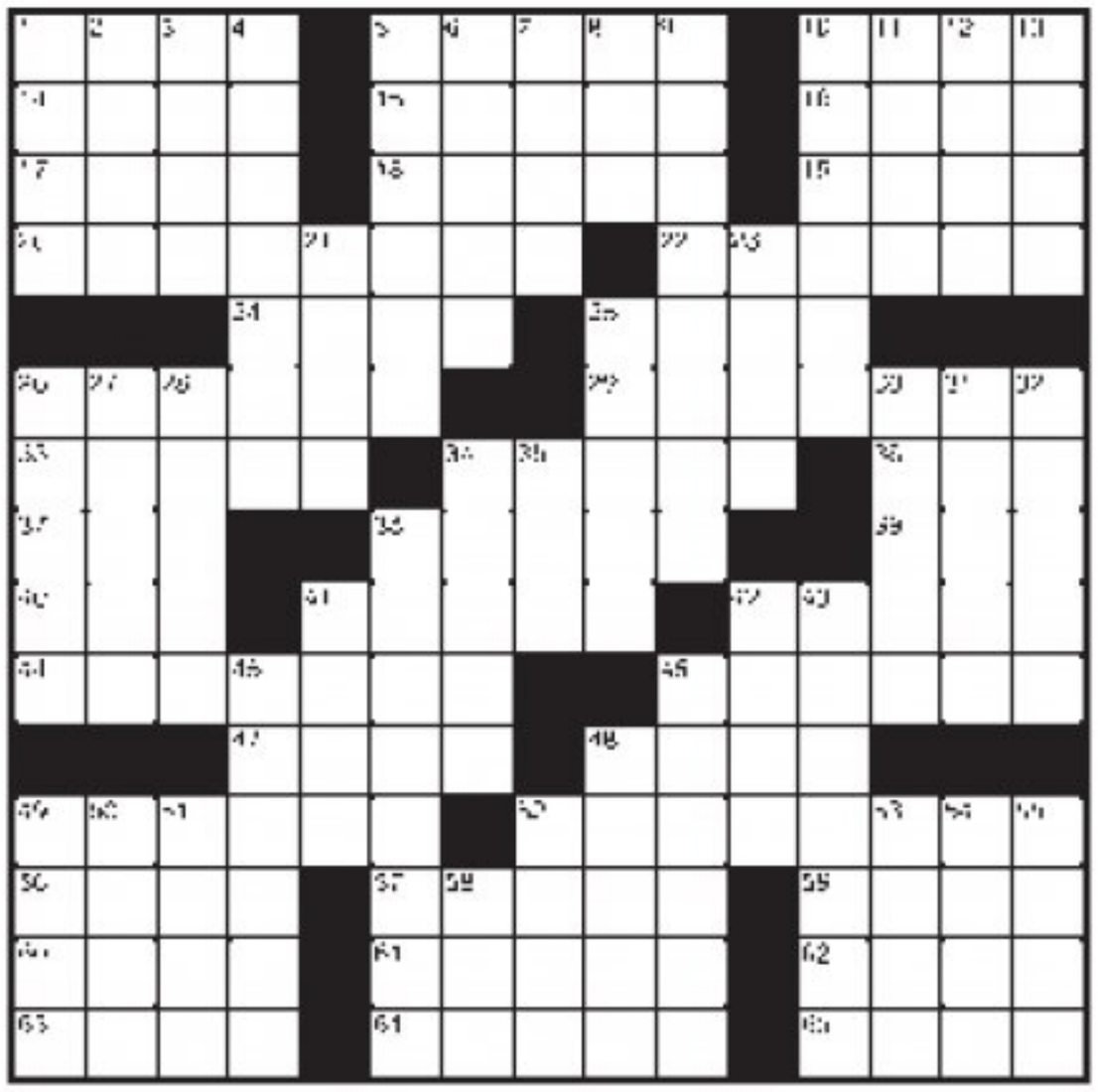
Across
1 P.D.Q. --
5 Sound reasoning
10 Comes unzipped
14 Earthen jar
15 Socrates' hangout
16 "Instead of" word
17 Iffy attempt
18 Sleep phenomenon
19 Ponderosa son
20 Arranges systematically
22 Rides a bike
24 Sandals' lack
25 Angler's hope
26 Port opposite Dover
29 Scuba gear (2 wds.)
33 Fill with joy
34 Go after
36 London lav
37 Word before Angeles or Alamos
38 Railroad switch
39 Rubble-maker
40 Coast Guard off.
41 Yerba -- (old San Francisco)
42 Radium discoverer
44 Grendel's foe
46 Wild shrubs
47 Pipe fittings
48 Dance movement
49 With pluck
52 Talking big
56 Livy contemporary
57 Gondolier's land
59 Newsman -- Abel
60 Wedding confetti
61 Audacity
62 NFL broadcaster
63 Even once
64 Like some communities
65 Boss Tweed cartoonist

Down
1 Greenish-yellow pear
2 Palo --
3 Wearing something
4 Jungle, to a jaguar
5 Word on a door
6 Grimm characters
7 Hits the road
8 Novelist -- Levin
9 Most outlandishly amusing
10 Clearings
11 Verdi opus
12 Clap of thunder
13 Totals
21 Pate de -- gras
23 Diminutive suffix
25 Safari boss
26 Media star
27 Single-handed
28 Rodeo prop
30 Too-too
31 Column type
32 Big handbags
34 Upscale cooks
35 Barbarian
38 Tarnishing
41 Male elephant
42 Pool hall items
43 Lots and lots
45 Gardener, often
46 Hung around
48 Find the answer
49 Pierce with a horn
50 Tel --
51 Squeakers
52 A Simpson
53 Rick's old flame
54 Barely beats
55 Cultured fellow
58 Herbal infusion



metro.us/sudoku

easy

		6	5	1	4			
2	3		7					
				8			6	1
		5					4	
9	1		4		7		8	5
	8					2		
1	7			6				
					1		2	6
			9	4	3	8		

hard

1			2				5	
	9		1			3		7
				8	7		2	
6		5			2			3
	4						7	
3			4			8		5
	2		3	6				
8		4			1		3	
	3				5			8

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries A partnership looks promising. You stand to make financial and emotional gains if you change your living arrangements or negotiate a new contract.

Taurus Talks and travel will lead to discovery. Don't feel that you must start something on a large scale. Baby steps will lead to long-term stability and satisfaction.

Gemini Socializing should be scheduled. Getting together with friends or taking part in a challenge will spark an entertaining and informative discussion with someone.

Cancer Get things done. Channel your energy and enthusiasm into helping a cause or the people who mean the most to you. A change in lifestyle will boost your morale.

Leo A trip or gathering should be planned. You'll shine if you speak up at events. Sharing your thoughts will motivate yourself and others and will add to your popularity.

Virgo Anxiety will turn into anger if you let situations fester. Be honest about the way you feel and what you want to see happen to make life better.

Libra You've got a handle on whatever comes your way. Indulge in talks and bring about the changes you want to see transpire. Travel and romance are highlighted.

Scorpio Tie up loose ends at work and prepare to walk away with a clear conscience. Spend time doing something that brings you joy or inspires you to make changes.

Sagittarius The temperature is rising when it comes to romance. Don't sit back when you should be making plans to enjoy the company of someone special.

Capricorn Take a greater interest in your relationships. Striving to keep things equal will be more difficult than anticipated. Ask for suggestions to know where you stand.

Aquarius You'll enjoy the comforts of home and family. Plan to host a party or make special plans for you and a loved one to spend some alone time.

Pisces Don't make assumptions or get angry without just cause. Dig deep and find out what you need to know before you say something you'll regret. EUGENIA LAST

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